



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**November 13, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Boise teacher named 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **BOISE TEACHER NAMED 2009 IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced Wednesday that a Boise elementary school teacher has been honored as the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year.

Robin Sly of Trail Wind Elementary School in the Boise School District has served as a first-grade teacher for 11 years. As Idaho Teacher of the Year, she will receive about \$20,000 in cash and donated gifts and represent the state of Idaho as a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year.

"Robin Sly is an excellent teacher who not only improves student achievement among her own students, but she also lends a hand at the state and local levels to better public education for all students," Superintendent Luna said. Superintendent Luna announced the Idaho Teacher of the Year award in a surprise assembly at Trail Wind Elementary School on Wednesday. He was joined by Boise School District Superintendent Dr. Stan Olson and district board of trustee members A.J. Balukoff, Bea Black and Nancy Gregory.

"This is quite an honor," Sly said after receiving the award. "I couldn't imagine doing anything else with my life."

The Idaho Teacher of the Year program began in 1959 and has become one of the most prestigious honors in the state for teachers. The program focuses public attention on excellence in teaching that has a real impact on the students of Idaho. As the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year, Sly will receive:

- \$1,000 from the State Department of Education,
- \$16,000 in technology equipment, software and training donated from the SMARTer Kids Foundation,
- A Lenovo notebook computer donated by Lenovo and Intermountain Technology Group in Boise.

Every year, school districts and charter schools across Idaho have the opportunity to nominate one teacher for the Idaho Teacher of the Year. A state selection committee representing teachers, education leaders, parents and legislators from across the state choose the Idaho Teacher of the Year from among the nominations.



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To learn more about the Idaho Teacher of the Year program, please visit  
[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\\_of\\_year/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/).

### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will participate in the Idaho Board of Land Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, November 18.
- Superintendent Luna will tour Burley High School on Wednesday, November 19, in Burley.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to history teachers from throughout Idaho who are attending the "An Intimate Portrait of the Founders" seminar in Boise on Friday, November 21.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Winter EduFest** -- Winter EduFest, the conference on gifted and talented education, will be held February 26-28, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. The conference is titled "Keys to Open Potential and Passion." For more information, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted\\_talented/announcements.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm).
- **Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge** -- The *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* gives students the opportunity, tools and inspiration to become those agents of change. Middle school student teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. Teams can register until March 15, 2009. Visit <http://www.wecanchange.com> to learn more.
- **Student scholarship opportunity** -- Reconnecting the Circle's National High School Essay Contest is now accepting entries. The deadline to enter is January 23, 2009. This year's essay question asks, "Why is it important to understand patriotism in Indian Country?" and prompts students to research Native American patriots, as well as explore their own American communities. All high-school aged students (grades 9-12) from tribal, BIE, public, private, and parochial schools from all 50 states are invited to participate. To learn more, visit <http://www.reconnectingthecircle.com>.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **November School Improvement Webinar** -- The Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools Webinar scheduled for **November 20, 2008** will focus on Effective School Leadership. The specific topic of the webinar is Optimizing Time and Resources and will include information on effective grouping options, scheduling and pacing calendars. Lisa Kinnaman and Deb Pfof will present the webinar at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. MST. The same presentation will be delivered at both available times, as this material is appropriate for elementary and secondary educators. The estimated time for the webinar is 45 minutes. There is no charge for participation. You can register



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at [www.idahodigitallearning.org](http://www.idahodigitallearning.org) by selecting the "Idaho Live" tab and clicking "Register for Webinar." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.

- **Donations for Homeless Education Programs** -- In an effort to aid homeless education programs in a particularly difficult economy, the State Department of Education is beginning an ongoing project to distribute hotel toiletries collected by Department staff while traveling on business. If your school or district has a need, and you are interested in receiving these toiletries, please contact Camille Wells at [CWells@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CWells@sde.idaho.gov). Requests will be filled in the order they are received. If you have any other questions or concerns about homeless education in Idaho, please feel free to contact Karen Seay at the Department at (208) 332-6978 or [KJSeay@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:KJSeay@sde.idaho.gov).
- **School Improvement Webinars** -- The State Department of Education hosted a webinar workshop on the research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model this week. In case you missed it, the webinar has been archived on the IdahoLive web site at the following links:  
For elementary: [http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE\\_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro\\_2008\\_1028\\_1214\\_12](http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1214_12)  
For secondary: [http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE\\_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro\\_2008\\_1028\\_1707\\_12](http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1707_12)
- **School Immunization Module** -- The IRIS School Immunization Module is a free statewide system that will reduce time spent collecting and managing immunization records. The IRIS School Module gives school personnel special access to the Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS), Idaho's voluntary immunization registry. This module will allow schools to not only view immunization records in IRIS, but also add records and create school-specific reports. Starting in Fall 2009, the Idaho School Immunization Report can be completed using the IRIS School Module. The Idaho School Immunization Report is required to be completed annually by all Idaho schools with students enrolled in kindergarten, first, or seventh grade. To learn more or enroll in the IRIS School Module, visit the "Schools" section of the IRIS homepage at <https://iris.idaho.gov>.
- **Free youth suicide prevention training** -- Idaho State University is sponsoring free youth suicide prevention trainings. The training session includes warning signs of mental illness in youth, risk and protective factors for suicide and practical information on how to talk to youth who are at risk. Seating is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Marsha Tracy at [preventsuicide@isu.edu](mailto:preventsuicide@isu.edu) or (208) 373.1799. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:
  - January 22, 2009 in Garden City
  - February 3, 2009 in Twin Falls
  - March 3, 2009 in Sandpoint
  - April 8, 2009 in Idaho Falls
- **ELD Math and Science Standards workshop** -- The State Department of Education, in conjunction with WestEd, is hosting ELD Math and Science Standards Workshops aimed at training math and science teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school level to train other teachers in assisting LEP students with excelling in math and science. Each district is strongly encouraged to bring a math and science instructor, an ESL/bilingual instructor and administrator to these trainer-of-trainer workshops. To register for a workshop, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/eld/>. All workshops will all be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:
  - Nampa: November 4, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center
  - Twin Falls: November 20, 2008 at College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center



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- Idaho Falls: November 21, 2008 at Eastern Idaho Technical College's Alexander D. Creek Building  
If you are traveling from northern Idaho please contact Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant Title III/LEP, at (208) 332-6942 or [tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov) so he can arrange to pay for travel to the Idaho Falls or Nampa workshops.
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on costs of higher education and federal aid programs, is scheduled for November 18, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. Visit <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues> to register.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or [david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil) or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or [colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil). Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or [fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil).
- **Early Years 2008 conference** -- The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit [www.idahochild.org](http://www.idahochild.org).

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- The deadline to submit attendance and enrollment reports to the State Department of Education. If you need assistance in submitting your reports or have questions on attendance and enrollment reporting, please contact Greg Berg Coordinator Public School Finance at: [GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov).





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- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- The deadline to apply for the National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 17, 2008** -- The deadline to submit an application to become a Capacity Builder for the Idaho Building Capacity Project. For more information, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Page471.htm>.
- **Nov. 21, 2008** -- The deadline for teachers to apply for the Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing grants. Grants of \$3,000 each will be awarded to teachers who are doing an inspiring job of teaching their students to write and who will benefit most from a grant to enhance a successful project. Please visit <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/costas> to learn more.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** -- The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16<sup>th</sup> annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit [www.firstfreedom.org](http://www.firstfreedom.org). Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the 2008 Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities Award. The Idaho Humanities Council will honor one elementary and one secondary teacher of the humanities. For more information, please visit [www.idahohumanities.org](http://www.idahohumanities.org) and click on the "News" link.
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to complete Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 and Subpart 1 Surveys. Please visit the following web sites to access the surveys:
  - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/StateSurvey.asp>
  - Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/LocalSurvey.asp>
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to submit entries for the Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society and Idaho National Laboratory's 2008 Southeastern Idaho High School Essay Contest, which is open to students in 9-12 grades. The essay topic is to discuss nuclear energy and its implications for lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change. For more information, please visit [http://local.ans.org/Idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1\\_Idaho\\_ANS\\_Essay\\_Contest.html](http://local.ans.org/Idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1_Idaho_ANS_Essay_Contest.html).
- **Dec. 4, 2008** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to submit a letter of intent to apply for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. Letters must be submitted to Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at 4 p.m. (MST). If you have questions, please call (208) 332-6960.
- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit [www.character.org/nsoc](http://www.character.org/nsoc) for more information.
- **Dec. 12, 2008** -- The deadline to register for the National Geographic Bee. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. For complete information on the Bee, visit [www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee).
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org) for an application.
- **Jan. 12, 2009** -- The deadline to enroll in Northwest Nazarene University's 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games graduate course. The course, titled ED550 Education to Make a Difference, is designed so that educators will learn to teach a series of concise and engaging K-12 lessons about valuing diversity through involvement with the Special Olympics. To register, please visit <https://www.nnu.edu/cereg>. If you have questions, please e-mail Mary Gervase at [marymgervase@yahoo.com](mailto:marymgervase@yahoo.com).
- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit [www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm](http://www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm) to learn more or to apply online.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org). If you have any questions, e-mail [emartin@c-span.org](mailto:emartin@c-span.org) or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.



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- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit an application for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants. Letters must be submitted to Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at 4 p.m. (MST). If you have questions, please call (208) 332-6960.
- **Feb. 9, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation's Christopher Columbus Awards program. The awards program is a national, community-based science and technology program for 6th-8th grade students. It challenges students to work in teams of three or four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. For more information, please visit [www.christophercolumbusawards.com](http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com).
- **March 12, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators, which offers scholarships for educators in public and private schools to take college courses. Please visit <https://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx> for more information.